

MARVEL
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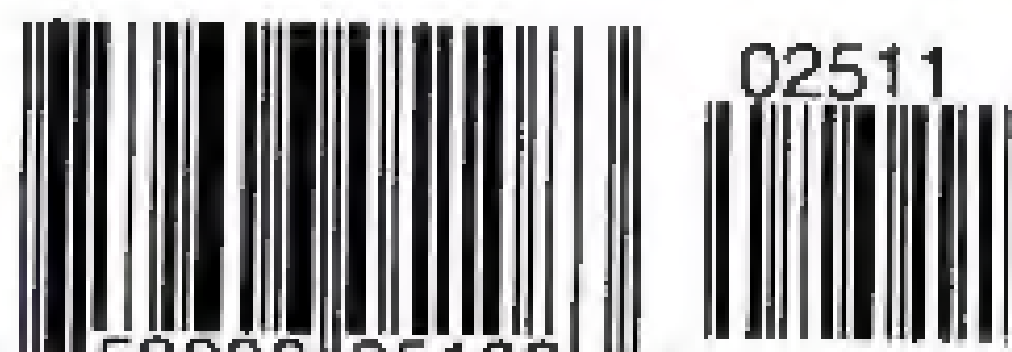
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EXILES™



**WITH AN
IRON FIST
CONCLUSION**

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Six Strangers, each a super hero from a different reality. Brought together to ensure that life as we know it doesn't cease to exist! **GAMBIT** -- Mutant Thief and Leader, **THE VISION** -- Cybernetic Master of Density, **COLOSSUS** -- Armored Warrior, **THE SPIDER** -- Symbiotic Man-Arachnid, **ANGEL** -- Winged Mercenary, and **STORM** -- Weather Goddess. Destined to fix the chains of reality by any means necessary. Stan Lee Presents **WEAPON X** in...

EXILES

WITH AN IRON FIST CONCLUSION



GAMBIT

Remy LeBeau
Explosive Energy Charge



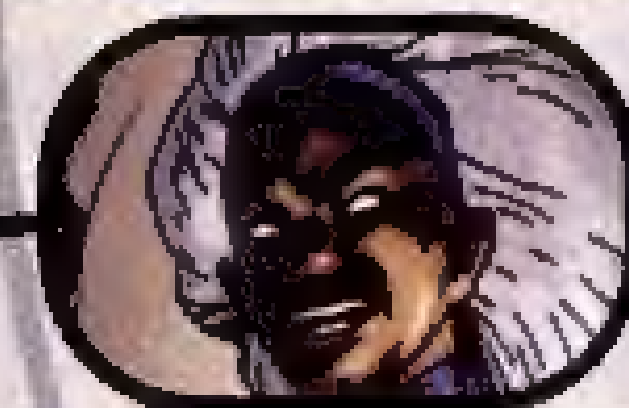
SPIDER

Peter Parker
Alien Symbiote



ANGEL

Warren Worthington III
Winged Flight



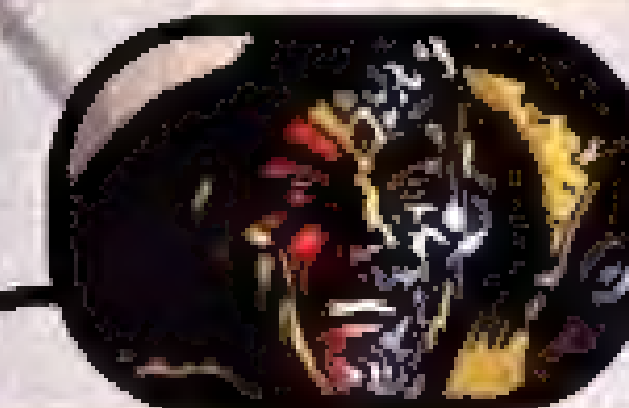
STORM

Ororo Munroe
Weather Witch



COLOSSUS

Piotr Rasputin
Steel Body and Super Strength



VISION

Android
Density Control

PREVIOUSLY



Scribe
Judd Winick

Penciler
Key Walker

Inker
Simon Coleby

Colorist
Transparency
Digital

Letterer
Paul Tutrone

Assistant Editor
Nova Ren Suma

Editor
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It is a world controlled by a malevolent despot. Through secret takeovers of conglomerates, covert orchestrations that brought about terrorism and war, and the strategic infection of livestock and crops that threw the planet into mass starvation... **IRON MAN** came to power. He is Tony Stark, the one-time billionaire industrialist and founder of Stark Industries, and he has now become the unchallenged monarch of Earth.

Unfortunately, this is not enough for Tony Stark. He wishes to conquer other planets as well. To do so, he will need an army—an Inhuman one. President Stark has long sought to capture the mysterious race of super beings dubbed the **INHUMANS**. It is their genetic matter he seeks. They will be the breeding stock for his future warriors.

For years, the sovereign leader of the Inhumans, **BLACK BOLT**, along with his bride **SUSAN RICHARDS**, the Invisible Woman, have managed to hide their people from Stark's clutches. Recently, their city—**ATTILAN**, the massive seafaring vessel that had been cloaked underwater—was forced to the surface for repairs. All they have left to protect them is a force field that keeps Stark from getting to them. It is their last defense.

However, **WEAPON X**, the nomadic super-beings sent from reality to reality to fix the chain of time, have arrived on Stark's world to help him succeed in his plan to enslave the Inhumans. Torn from their own realities and willing to do anything—no matter how terrible—to get back home, this ruthless assemblage has already succeeded in attaining a weapon that will destroy Attilan's force field and enable Stark to capture the Inhumans.

But Black Bolt has a secret plan that will ensure that the Inhumans are never hunted again. Will he be able to implement his plan before his people are enslaved...?



He is Black Bolt.

He is the King of
the Inhumans.

He will not speak.

THE CITY OF ATILAN.

It isn't that he lacks the ability. Quite the contrary, he has the ability to produce the most powerful sound that any being has ever heard.

His greatest power is also his greatest curse. His voice is deadly.

He can topple buildings with an utterance.

Explode through the earth's crust with a spoken word.



So... he is silent. Although, he can speak volumes with his body language-- it's a skill that he spent his entire life cultivating.



And it is something that his wife, Susan Richards, takes great pains to understand.





As a wife who shares her life with a husband who is without speech, she must interpret, search, and fight to comprehend his every gesture.



It is difficult... especially of late.

He has kept completely to himself. Even for a man of no words like Black Bolt, it is out of character.

Why have you been reading all these?



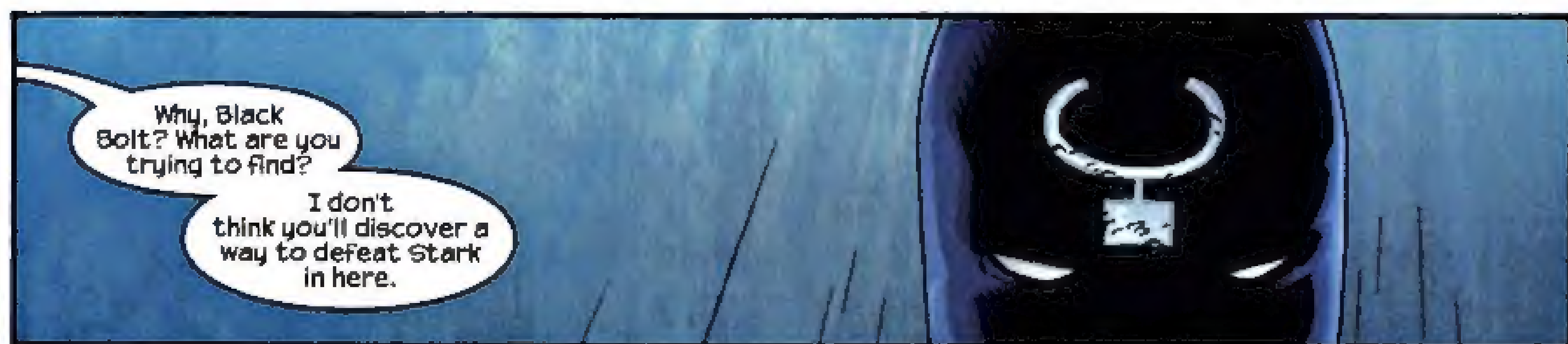
These are books...



...books on races that have been *slaughtered*.

The American Indians, the African slave trade to the New World, the Mongol Emperor of China, The Teiping Rebellion--

--The French Revolution, The Aztecs, Jews from all eras... modern texts... ancient books...



Why, Black Bolt? What are you trying to find?

I don't think you'll discover a way to defeat Stark in here.



Yes... I know the story of *Masada*...

Why would...?



No...



No!
No! No!
No!

You don't
mean to...
please...
please!

There *must* be
another way! You
can't just-- we
shouldn't--



Your
Majesty... my
Queen. Forgive my
intrusion.

We have just
received a communica-
tion from the *Scarlet
Witch* and *Doctor
Strange*.

Stark has
stolen the *Disruptor*.
He has the means to
bring the *G-Barrier*
down.



We assume
another attack
on Attilan is...
is *certain*.



We can't...



Susan knows
exactly what
Black Bolt's
look means.

"We will...,"
he says.

THE WHITE HOUSE WAR ROOM, NEW YORK CITY.

Weapon X is forced to complete one mission in order to repair this timeline and move to the next world: Aid President Tony Stark in defeating the Inhumans.

It is no small undertaking.

T-minus 3 hours, 17 minutes to operation, "Jericho".

Mission Initiative: Deactivation of Galactus force field. Field code: *O Barrier*.

Infiltration and acquisition of the city of Pttivan.

Instate level 10 containment of all Inhuman beings.

Team 2 Initiative: Prepare for transport to internment facility A.

All personnel are instructed to utilize critical force only when all alternatives have been exhausted or to maintain initiative.

Okay, Stark, explain to me why you want us to lead the attack?

Because first, Gambit-- you're good. You're a ruthless bunch of cusses who managed to take out *Wonder Man*, the strongest biped on this globe.

I couldn't swing that and I hold the car keys to the planet.

Secondly-- Weapon X has the most to lose. You fail and you have to stay on my crummy little planet.

Or even worse, you get zipped back to a twisted version of your own reality.

For you, I assume that the stakes are much *higher* than most of these super-powered mercenaries I've gathered up.

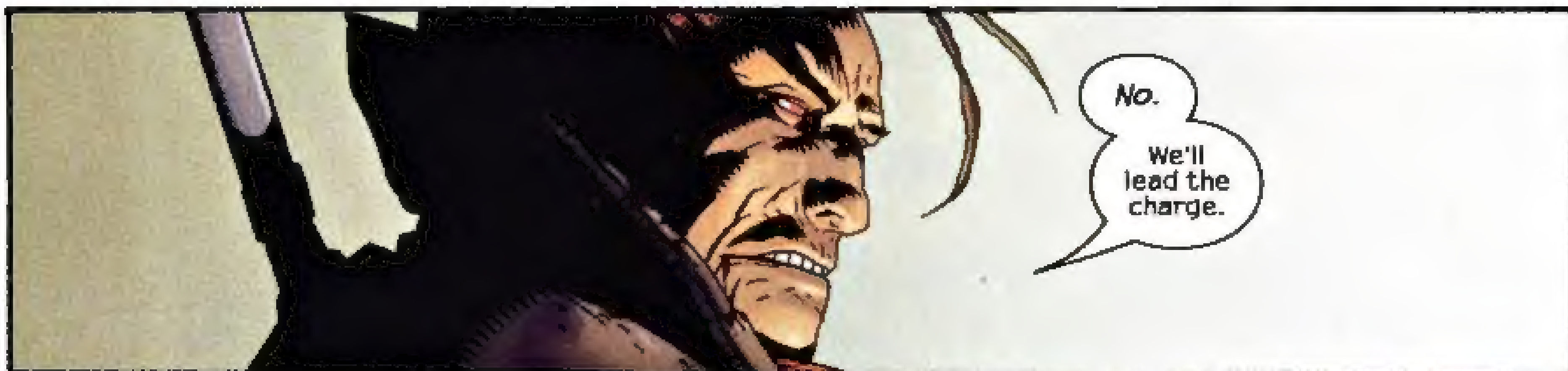
I like having that motivation behind you.



Hey... you kids don't want the job, you can just cop a squat in a Laz-y Boy here in the war room and watch some *other* folks juggle your future.

It's up to you.





No.

We'll
lead the
charge.



Mr. President! We
have movement!
Attilan is moving
due east over the
Pacific at two
hundred knots.



What are
you up to, Black
Bolt?

If they
maintain this
course, is there
anything ahead
of them?

Not
much, Sir. No land
masses-- but there is
a four mile stretch
of coral.



Ah... yes,
they'll set the city
down there. They want
to take the fight *further*
out to sea so the civilians
on land aren't in danger.
Very noble.

In any
event...

HOURS LATER, OVER THE PACIFIC OCEAN...

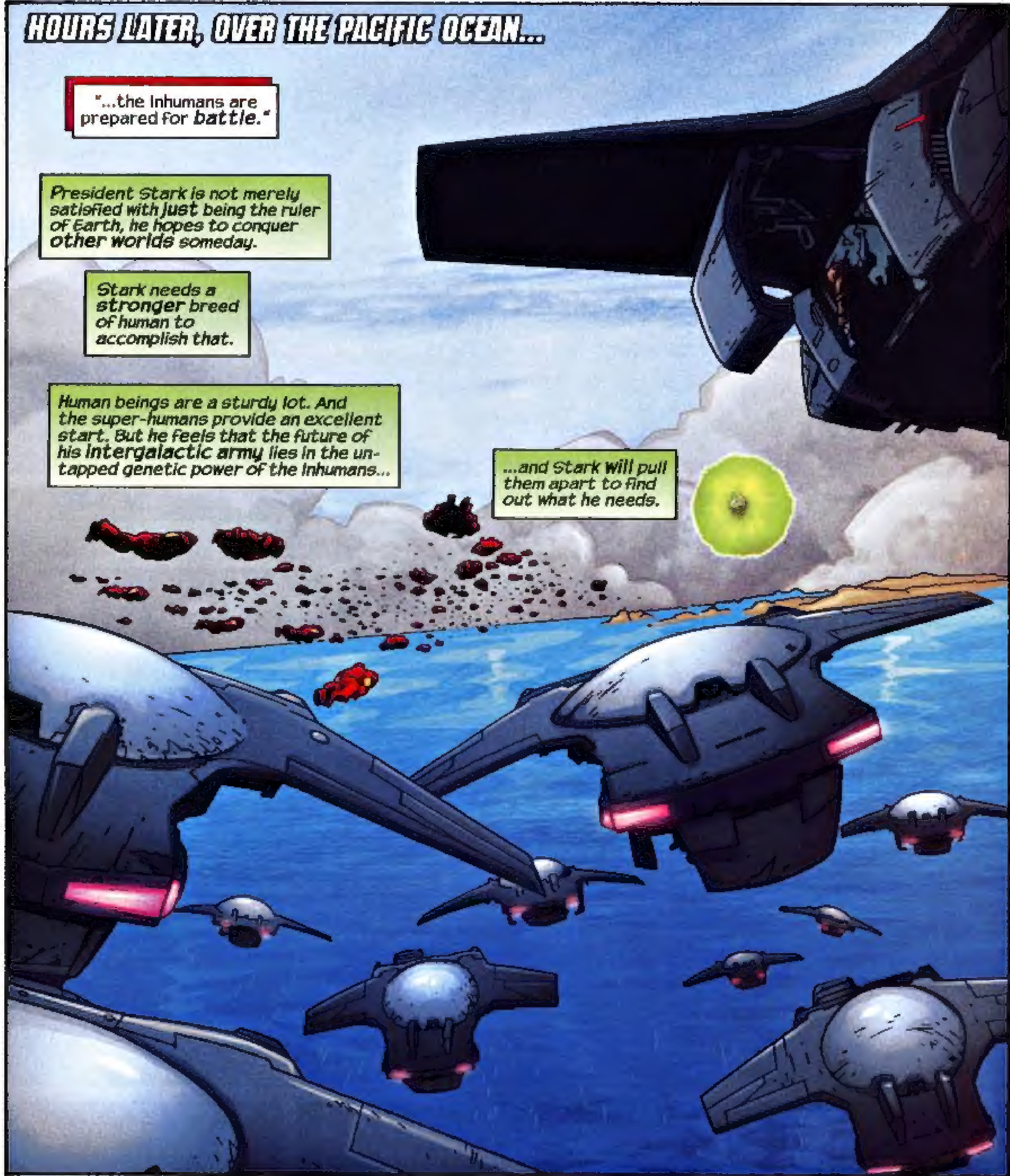
"...the Inhumans are prepared for battle."

President Stark is not merely satisfied with just being the ruler of Earth, he hopes to conquer other worlds someday.

Stark needs a stronger breed of human to accomplish that.

Human beings are a sturdy lot. And the super-humans provide an excellent start. But he feels that the future of his intergalactic army lies in the untapped genetic power of the Inhumans...

...and Stark will pull them apart to find out what he needs.



Look alive! Wait for my command to move in!

Aye-aye, captain.



Black Bolt has a plan.

Every Inhuman on Attilan has been given their instructions... as well as their King's blessing.

His Queen was not so easily swayed.

It took some pressure to convince Susan that this was the only solution.

Even still... she has lied to him.

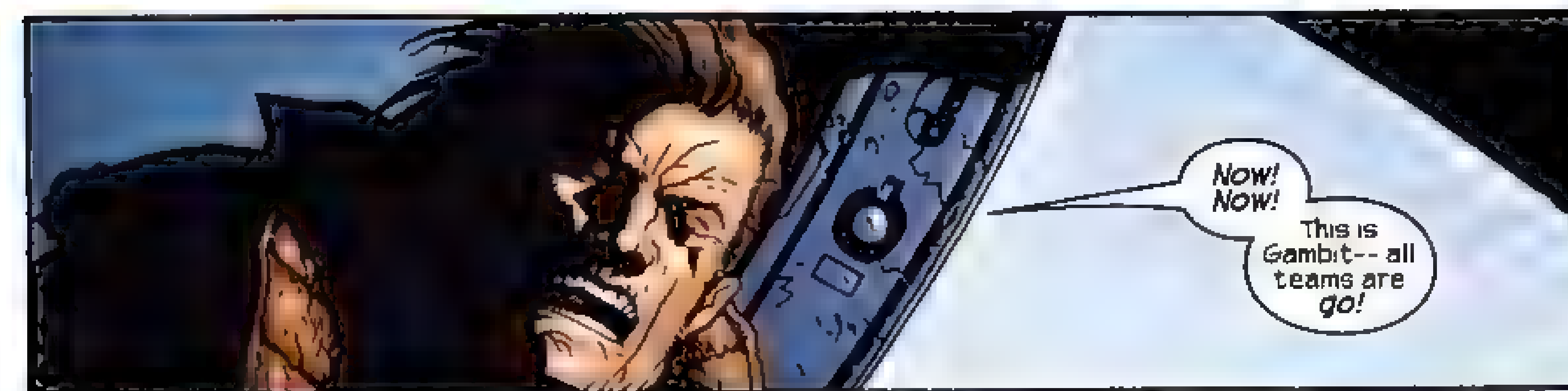
She has a plan of her own.

A plan her husband and King would not approve of.

But she would not be able to live with herself if she didn't see it all out to the end.

It is a small lie.

But it will be one with great consequences.



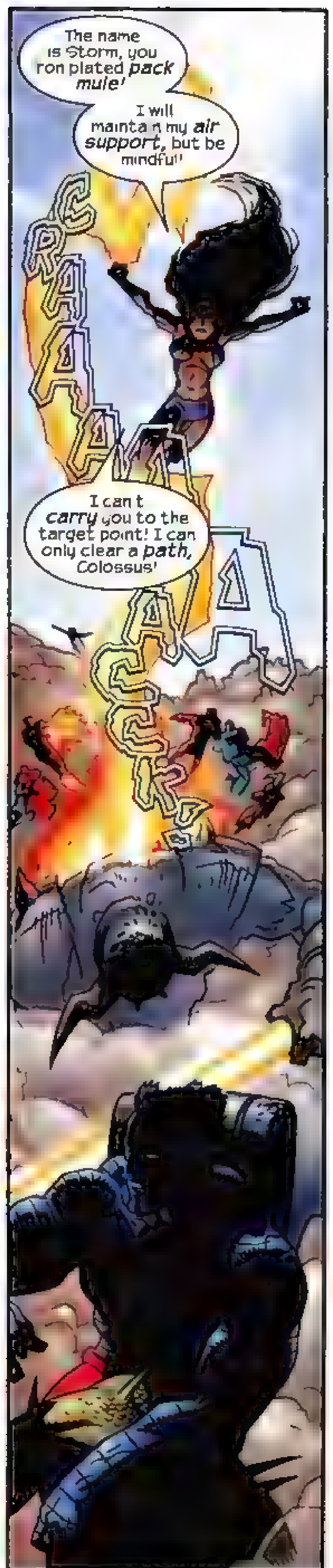


The sound of the two
forces colliding can be
heard fifty miles away.

It is a thunderous
sound of hatred.

Of desperation.

Of war.



He is Karnak. A member of the Inhuman royal family.

If I have to disarm every one of you-- *one at a time*-- then it will be done!

A most formidable warrior. Not only does he possess speed, agility, strength, and a mastery of hand-to combat--

--Karnak's greatest asset is his ability to see the tiniest flaw. The chink in the armor. An opponent's Achilles heel.

With that knowledge he can dispatch almost any adversary with a single calculated blow.

Ah.

That is, if he
sees them
coming.

That is my
hand you feel
inside your chest,
mighty Karnak. While
I do not possess your
intuitive ability to
find weak-
ness--

--I am
certain that
making my
intangible hand
solid and severing
the ventricles of
your heart will
"take the fight
out of you."

Unable to
speak, Karnak
just thinks:

"Everything
has a soft
spot."

And indeed,
everything
does.

They may only
be a millimeter
thick, and reside
in the intangible
body of a highly
advanced
android--

--but they
are there.

THE G-BARRIER WALL...

Gambit! I am at the target point! We are ready to activate the *Disruptor*!

Can we possibly befall this barrier with such a small device?

The device may be small, but it'll hit the barrier somewhere around 500 miles an hour using that launcher.

According to Stark, that should be enough!

Quick, Colossus! Press it up against the force field and blast it in! We don't have much--

BLAAM!!

You won't do anything but drown in your own blood, *villains*! You will not harm another Inhuman while *Gorgon* draws breath!

INSIDE THE G-BARRIER...

The time has come.

Black Bolt is ready.

*They believe in him.
All of his subjects...
his family... his people.*



*From the powerful beings
that make up the strength
of the city's populace--*



*--to the Alpha
Primitives who
dwell deep be
neath the city--*

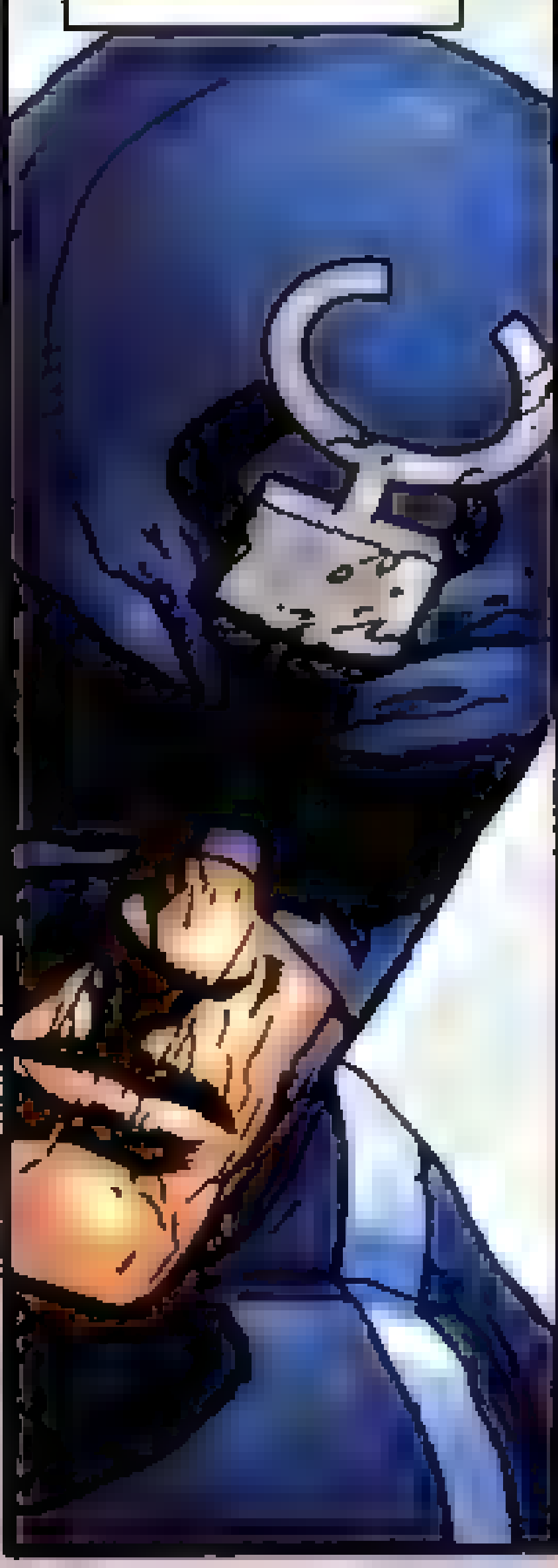


*--to those who
live in between.*



*They all agree.
Fate has dealt them
a terrible blow.*

*They shall now
turn to meet it...*



THE G-BARRIER WALL...

Let's pray the Disruptor works, Vision!

BOOOOM!

We have no time for prayer, Colossus

Sorry it had to go down this way Gorgon...

...but I want to go home.

Black Bolt has been reading about Earth's history of genocide.

How, over and over again, so many have attempted to destroy entire races of people.

Stark to Gambit! We read the activation of the Disruptor. Can you confirm?

Read you loud and clear, Stark--

Unfortunately, there was a great deal of material to choose from.

But there was one tale that struck a chord with Black Bolt.

Centuries ago, after the fall of Jerusalem and the destruction of the Jewish Temple in 70 CE by the conquering Roman army--

--1,000 Jewish Zealot resisters and their families fled Jerusalem and took over a remote mountaintop.

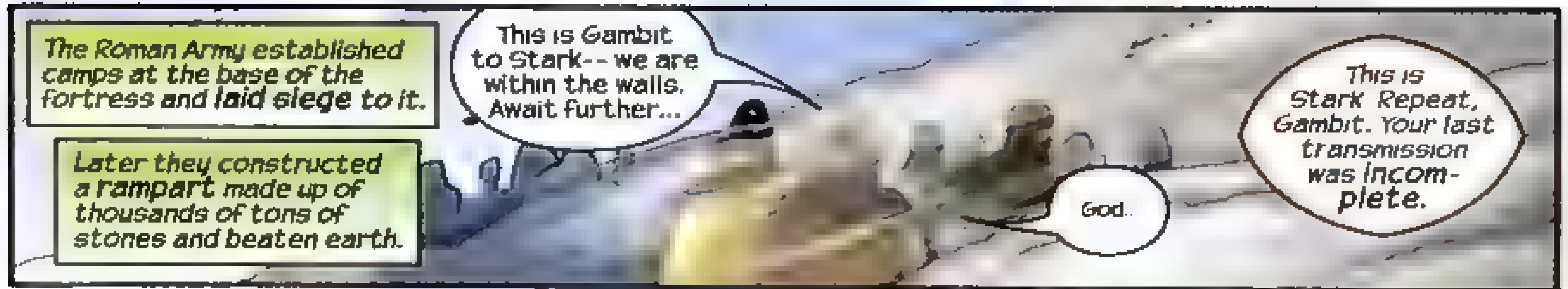
The resisters withstood a 2-year siege by the Roman Tenth Legion.

Then, in 73 CE, the Roman Governor Flavius Silva marched against them.

I hope I have not failed you, sire...

The shield is down!

Phase two, people! **Neutralize** every Inhuman in the city! Man, woman and child!



The Roman Army established camps at the base of the fortress and laid siege to it.

Later they constructed a rampart made up of thousands of tons of stones and beaten earth.

This is Gambit to Stark-- we are within the walls. Await further...

God.

This is Stark Repeat, Gambit. Your last transmission was incomplete.



Gambit! Come in. What's your status?

It's all very, very bad...

In the spring of the year 74 CE, the attacking army moved a battering ram up this ramp and finally breached the wall of the Jewish resisters' fortress.

The end was inevitable for the resisters.

This was not a battle they could win.



Gambit... come in... what... what's going on out there?

So, the 1,000 robbed the Roman Army of their victory. They would not live to be enslaved and tortured.



Their children and their children's children would not lead the desperate life of bondage to the Romans.

They chose death at their own hands.

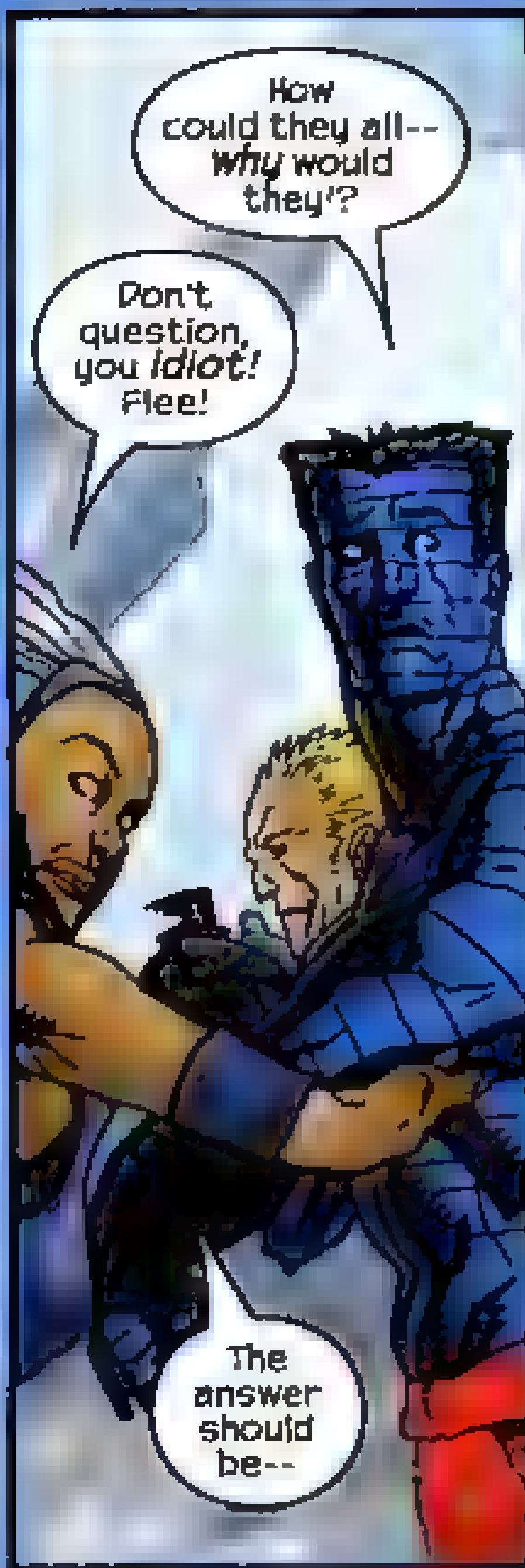
They're dead. They're all dead.

God almighty... all of them.



Run! All of you! Go! Get out of the city!

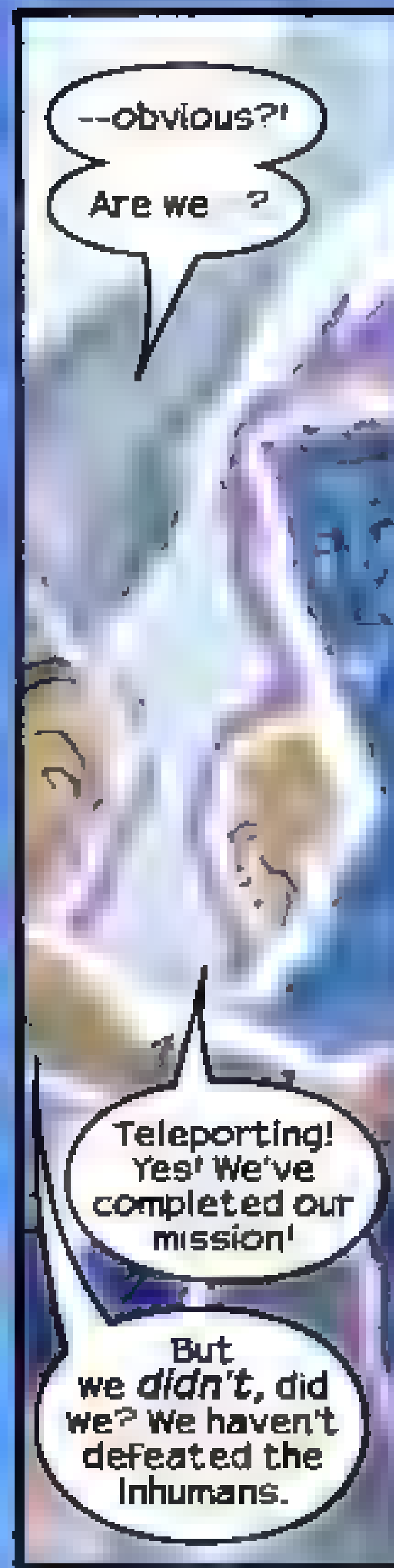
Don't look back! It's a trap! You hear me?! It's a trap!



How could they all-- why would they?

Don't question, you idiot! Flee!

The answer should be--



--obvious?!

Are we ?

Teleporting! Yes! We've completed our mission!

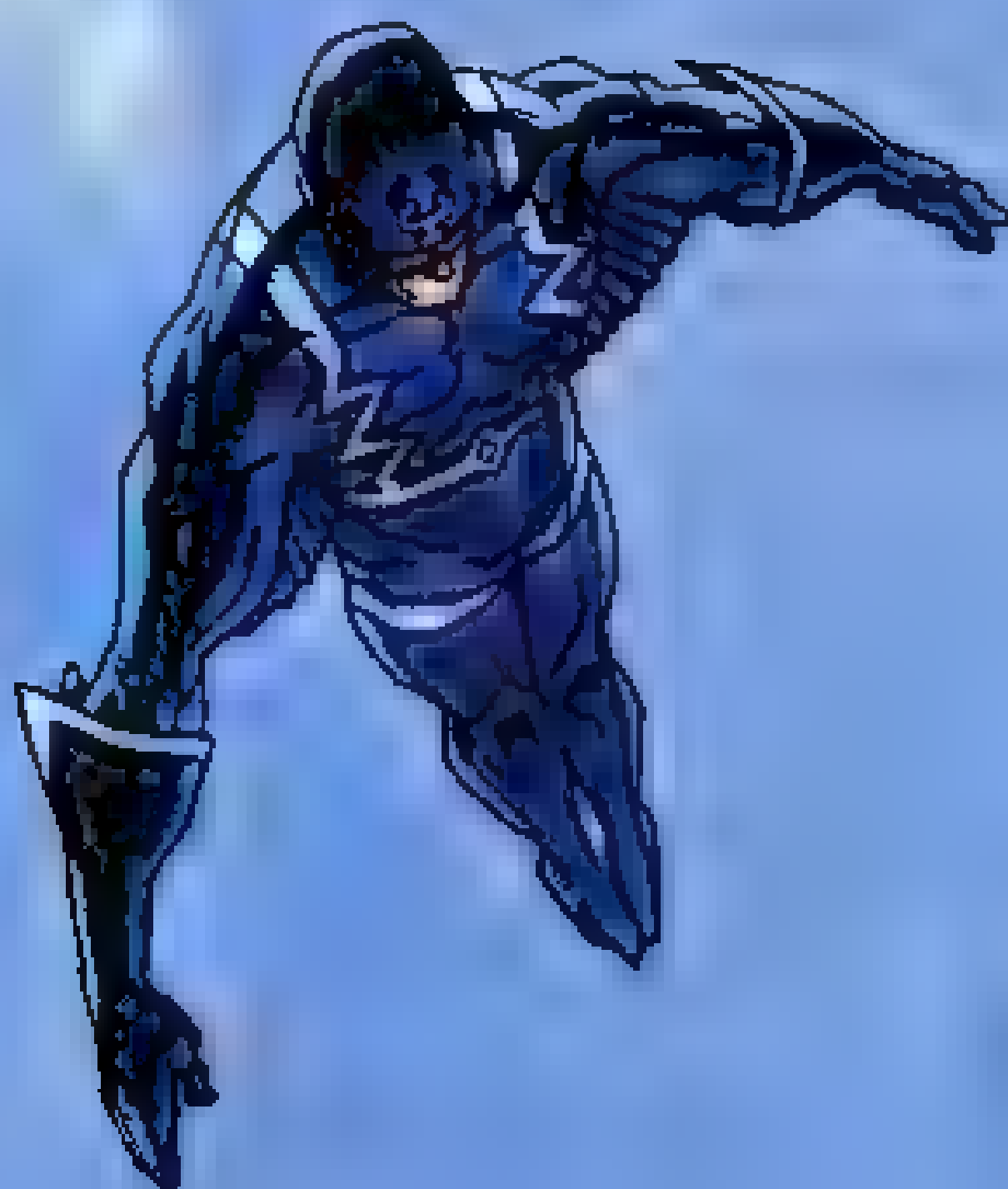
But we *didn't*, did we? We haven't defeated the Inhumans.



No. I guess we didn't. We must have just set *something else* in motion

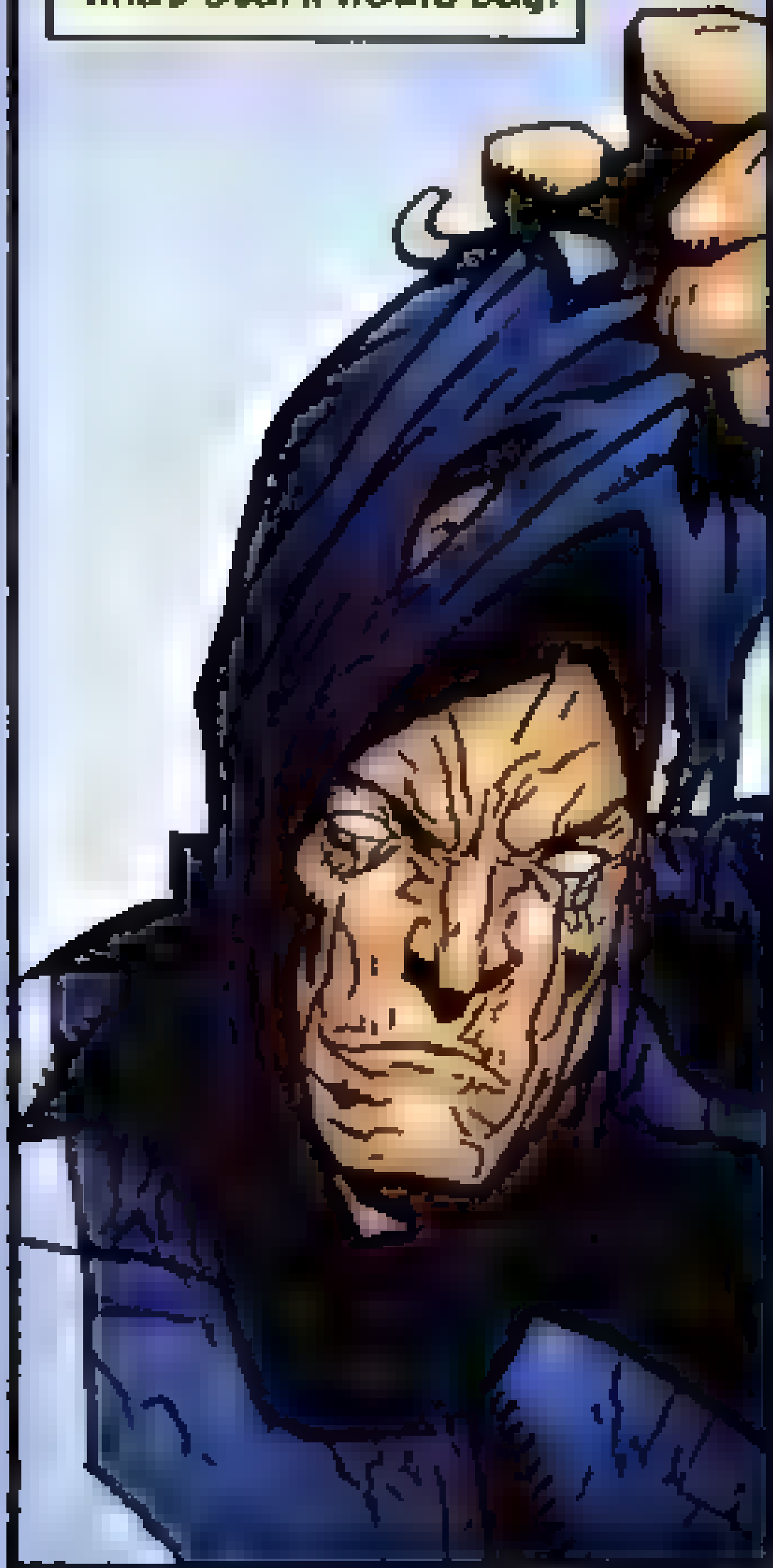
Good luck, folks. You're on your own.

When the leader of the Roman Army finally entered the resisters' stone fortress he had laid siege to for so long, he gazed upon the dead and uttered--



"We have won. We have won a rock."

Black Bolt wondered
what Stark would say.



He hoped that Stark would
remember the story of the
Romans and the Jews.



He hoped that the
legend of that rock
wouldn't be forgotten.



He hoped that its name
would ring in the ears
of his oppressors.



Even if they were
half a world away--

--they would
hear its name.

MASADA!!!

THE PRESIDENTIAL GARDENS...

Weapon X's role in this reality is now clear. They were merely pawns in time's massive reconstruction. They were meant to help Stark. Help him fail.

Stark has lost. Completely and utterly. He cares little for his army that has perished.

It was the Inhumans that he wanted...

There were no bodies to recover. All were vaporized. Stark wouldn't even be able to study the genetic matter of the dead.

He believes that the Inhumans and everything they could have provided for him are gone.

He is wrong. They are not all gone. Some are merely hiding.

They will begin again in secret-- the world will be oblivious to their existence.

Black Bolt's plan has worked perfectly.

Weak... pathetic... failure...

AA-AACK!!

And time is rectifying itself.



Black Bolt had not only sent an ark of hope to rebuild his race. He sent along one human leader.

He beat you, you bastard.

I wanted you to know that.

āāāāack...



During the battle-- he had me cloak three hundred of us.

Just three hundred... and he left me to lead them.

But I had to come back!

I couldn't let you live.



This was Susan Richards' lie to Black Bolt. She would leave the remaining Inhumans to exact her revenge.

And this is how time healed itself in this realm.

SECURITY BREACH! The President is down!



I'll be with you soon, my loves...



This world will never know the debt it owes to a group of nomadic super beings. A reality away, Weapon X will never understand their true purpose on this planet.

They set events in motion that brought about this moment.

In the decades to come, the horrors that Tony Stark had perpetrated would come to light.



And it will be recognized by the world that it took the sacrifice of an entire civilization, and one woman who loved their king...



...to free this world from
the hands of a monster.

END